

Green Keynotes AFL Convention With Plea For United Labor Drive To Win War, Peace

War Achievements, Call For Final Effort To Carve Out Victory

he war is approaching its end with the certainty of defeat for our ene-
my, Mr. Green said, but he stressed that until the last shot is fired, Ameri-
can workers will toll to the limit to produce the munitions and supplies needed.

With victory near it is essential, Mr. Green declared, to begin planning for economic security after the war, not only for the millions now in the army of production but for the millions who will return from the armed forces as well.

We do not want the men in the military forces to come back to America to their homeland, and be compelled to undergo the pains and pangs of unemployment again as they did following that last world war," he said. "After the war we insist work opportunities shall be provided for all returning soldiers. So we are urging and will urge at this convention that immediate steps be taken to insure that the men who have sacrificed their lives should be able to find work."

Surely, we can't postpone consideration of these problems until the last day is fired and until the last enemy has surrendered. We must begin now. Life. Grain embedded that labor will not tolerate any prolonged delay.

of other businessmen, that, "I do not desire any privileged money in the collection of services rendered after the war."

"We shall be brought back to their homes as quickly as possible after the war is terminated," he asserted.

"And when they come back, he shall insist that they shall share with us of us who have served in the army of production in the enjoyment of the rights and in the enjoyment of work opportunities."

Mr. Green laid especial emphasis on the need of establishing a high wage to bring about full employment and a balanced economy in the post-war world. Such pay scale must be higher than that which now prevails to avert disastrous economic tailspin, he warned. Increases in workers' produc-

ity have been so great during the war that industry can readily pay the higher rates, Mr. Green made it clear. He listed many examples of such phenomenal increases in labor efficiency; in some instances, of almost 100 per cent.

Moreover, wages and national income must be far higher than pre-war standards to meet the huge debt incurred during the war, he said. Another course would mean disaster, he warned.

"The solution," he said, "lies in the promotion and development of a national income sufficient to meet our national needs. It can be maintained and will pursue the policy and apply the economic philosophy such as has been espoused and proclaimed by the A.F.I."

Another essential post-war objective must be the re-establishment of union labor's ranks to meet the onslaughts of labor's foes, Mr. Green pointed out. He voiced an inspiring plea for such unity, declaring that if it is not

"If there ever was a time when labor in America and throughout the world should be united, it is now," he urged. "I publicly renew the appeal of the American Federation of Labor to those who left us to come back to the

"If we stand as one and move as one and walk as one when the post-war arrives we can meet the enemy on equal terms. I emphasize the importance of this subject and I hope the erring ones who left us will return and the call and come back to the house of labor."

"Insofar as I am concerned, I will contribute all I can towards the establishment of unity again in the ranks of labor."

Another outstanding address was delivered by Lieutenant General Breckinridge, Chief of the Army Service Forces. Somervell also brought a message from General Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, which read in part:

"The record in the greatest production race in history represents a tremendous accomplishment. You have made possible the overwhelming superiority of supplies and equipment that has enabled our Army and those of our allies to wrest the initiative from the enemy in every theater of war."

Marshall stressed that "the very speed of our advance has created new production problems which demand herculean effort on the part of all our people in the months ahead."

"A prodigious effort is being made by our Army," he said. "An equal prodigious effort must be made here at home."

General Somervell, paid a glowing tribute to labor's record on the fighting front and the production front.

Members of the American Federation of Labor are on the fighting front and the production front.

Members of the American Federation of Labor are fighting on every front.

"American production for war has rightly been called a miracle . . . We have gone a long way since the start of this year to give our fighting force the equipment it needs. We have gone along a long way since the start of this year to give our fighting force the equipment it needs."

increased the poor they need. We have more than 100,000 unemployed, lacking skills, and every worker who has contributed in any way to that figure is entitled to our heartfelt thanks. We would not be hammering against the western defenses of Germany right now if we hadn't had this outpouring of effort in our support by the people at home. Because America had advanced so fast and are fighting on so great a front, schedules have had to be stepped up terrifically. Somerville said that is why production of arms and equipment needed by the troops must lagging as much as 40 percent, he explained. The manufacturers are now in the position of having to elbow

Our previous commanders are not in a position to take our equipment at once or reduce the force of their offensives," he let it known. "We are ahead of our military timetables. To keep ahead we must move our production timetables forward and get from our factories today what was scheduled for later delivery."

He said the need was particularly great for ammunition for heavy artillery and for mortar; for heavy trucks and tanks, and a number of other items. He said of constantly changing models, he said, required by the experience of warfare, has intensified the problem.

He gave a glowing description of the endless lines of trucks, many of them manned by members Union members, which haul the vast supplies for the fighting fronts. The story of these drivers, he said, "will be the story of the great page of American transportation."

Some will sound up by appealing to the nation's workers to stick to their jobs and tell their bosses to meet the Army's expanded needs. "I know you

On behalf of the AFL, President Green pledged that no stone will be left unturned by organized labor to produce to the limit of the armed services requirements.

Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, who also spoke, reviewed the achievements made in the way of labor and social legislation under the New Deal and promised that the nation will not rest on these laurels but go forward to still greater social gains.

She voiced an appeal for a return to the Department of Labor of labor services that have been assumed by other agencies, particularly during the war—all of which AFL leaders have repeatedly endorsed.

Secretary Perkins wound up by urging substantially wider coverage of social security.

"Constant forward steps must be taken in the next ten years on a well-

Expansion of the social security act to provide a better level or a longer period of income under unemployment insurance and old age insurance."

They have been poured into the convention hopper by the delegates. Among these are measures calling for adequate labor representation at the post-war peace conference; revision of the "Little Steel" formula; opposition to post-war compulsory military service; unity in the labor movement; universal social security legislation; repeal of the vicious Smith-Connally legislation of a great post-war housing program, and many other proposals. They will be acted upon later in the sessions.

OF COMING UNEMPLOYMENT

"Management must realize the necessity for the prompt presentation of bills to the government," the government, in turn, has a tremendous responsibility in settling these claims, turning excess property to other uses and at the same time continuing kind of production it will take to bring Germany to its knees and knock Japanese armies."